

In The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.
Please amend the present application as follows:

1 – 24 (Cancelled).

25. (Currently Amended) A household appliance comprising:

a front door having an upper edge, the front door being opened and closed to access an appliance interior space;

a front cover disposed in front of the front door;

at least one optical status display device mounted on the household appliance such that the one optical status display device is a selected one of hidden in a built-in state of the household appliance and hidden when the front door is closed; and

at least one light guide for transmitting a signal light emitted by the optical status display device, the optical status display device being located at a spacing from the upper edge of the front door, wherein the light guide is arranged so that the signal light is disposed in the front cover so that the light is transmitted in the direction of the front side of the cover.

26. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 25, wherein the signal light is guided by the light guide to an area of the household appliance that is visible to a user so that the operating status of the household appliance can be checked even when the front door is closed.

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 25, wherein the front door has a front surface, the front cover is disposed in front of the front surface of the front door, and the optical status display device is mounted at the front surface of the front door.
29. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 28, wherein the front cover has a rear surface facing the front surface of the front door and a front surface in opposition to the rear surface, the optical status display device is mounted on the front door, the front cover has at least one through hole extending as far as the front side of the front cover, and the one through hole surrounds the light guide.
30. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 29, wherein the through hole is substantially cylindrical.
31. (Currently Amended) The household appliance according to claim 29 ~~and~~ further comprising a handle ~~is mounted on the front cover and~~, wherein the light guide is disposed relative to the handle such that the signal light emitted by the optical status display device is visible in the handle.
32. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 31, wherein the handle is a light guide.
33. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 25, wherein the front door has a side edge and a lower edge and the optical status display device is mounted at a selected one of the side edge and the lower edge of the front door.
34. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 33, wherein the light guide is a displaceable light guide.
35. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 25, wherein the front door has a side edge and a lower edge and the optical status display device is located at a spacing from the upper edge, the side edge, and the lower edge of the front door.

36. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 35, wherein the front cover has a rear surface facing the front surface of the front door and a front surface in opposition to the rear surface, a first part of the light guide is arranged such that the signal light is transmitted from the optical status display device to one of the upper edge, the side edge, and the lower edge of the front door, and a second part of the light guide is arranged such that the signal light is transmitted at least as far as the front side of the front cover.
37. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 36, wherein the second part of the light guide is displaceable with respect to the first part of the light guide.
38. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 25 and further comprising a housing, the optical status display device being mounted in the housing.
39. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 25, wherein the light guide guides the signal light along a light guiding path and the light guiding path is adaptable to extend through the respective thickness of the front cover.
40. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 25, wherein the light guide is mounted flush to the optical status display device.
41. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 25, wherein the light guide comprises at least one glass fiber.
42. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 25, wherein the light guide comprises at least one plastic fiber.
43. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 25, wherein the optical status display device is operable to provide a signal indicating at least the operating states (ON, OFF) of the respective switched-on and switched-off states of the household appliance.

44. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 25, wherein the optical status display device comprises at least one light-emitting diode.
45. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 25, wherein the optical status display device is operable to emit a signal light of a different color indicating a respective different operating state.
46. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 25 and further comprising a plurality of light guides to transmit signal light pertaining to different operating states.
47. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 46, wherein the light guides are comprised of different colors to display different operating states.
48. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 25, wherein the household appliance is a selected one of a dishwasher and a refrigerator.
49. (Previously Presented) The household appliance according to claim 25, wherein the optical status display device is located at the spacing from the upper edge of the front door such that the optical display device is within a visible region of a field of view of a user standing in front of the household appliance.
50. (New) A household appliance comprising:
 - a front door having an upper edge, the front door being opened and closed to access an appliance interior space;
 - a front cover disposed in front of the front door;
 - at least one optical status display device mounted on said front door such that the one optical status display device is a selected one of hidden in a built-in state of the household appliance and hidden when the front door is closed; and

at least one light guide for transmitting a signal light emitted by the optical status display device, the optical status display device being located at a spacing from the upper edge of the front door, wherein the light guide is arranged so that the signal light is disposed in the front cover so that the light is transmitted in the direction of the front side of the cover, wherein the optical status display device emits a first signal light for at least a first appliance status and at least a second signal light, different from the first signal light, for at least a second appliance status.